Electricity generating turbines lying idle in Kashmir

171. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three turbines to generate electricity are lying idle in the Kashmir Valley:

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is scarcity of electicity in the valley of Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for keeping these turbines idle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) During the current Winter Season when the demand in Kashmir Valley is high, all the three Gas Turbines have been under operation and generation during this period has been as follows:—

Month	Generation (in lakh units)
November, 1991	86.51
December, 1991	158.62
January, 1992	186.07
February, 1992 (upto 14th)	74.09

Subject to the transmission capability of 132 KV Udhampur-Pampore DC line and availability of power in the Northern Grid, power is transferred from Northern Region to the Valley. This is necessary in each Winter when demand in full cannot be met with available power.

Amount spent on Tehri Project

172. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent on Tehri Project so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have given environmental clearance for this project even after the recent earthquake in that area; and

(c) if so, by when the project is expected to completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) An amount of Rs. 660 Crores has been spent on Tehri project upto January, 1992.

(b) The environmental clearance to the project was accorded in July, 1990. As the Tehri Dam is designed to withstand an earthquake of a magnitude higher than the one which occurred recently and as the recent earthquake did not cause any damage to the constructed structure of the Tehri Dam, no fresh environmental clearance is required.

(c) The Project is envisaged to be completed by 1996-97.

Ocean thermal energy conversion schemes in the country

173. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what schemes have been taken up under Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Schemes in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to setting up 5 to 8 MW pilot OTEC plant in Andamans; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to conduct a techno-economic feasibility study for development of a 5 to 8 MW OTEC pilot plant in Andamans subject to availability of funds during the Eighth Plan presently under finalization.

Wind energy programme in Andhra Pradesh

174. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are various schemes under the 'Wind Energy Programme' in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what has been the achievement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Activities undertaken in Andhra Pradesh under the Wind Energy Programme comprise wind surveys, wind power and wind pumping demonstration projects. Fifty wind mapping stations and mine wind monitoring stations have been established for collection of wind data; six more wind monitoring stations are under installation.

A 550 KW wind farm project was established at Tirumala in July, 1989 and over 11 lakh units of electricity have so far been fed to the State grid from this project. The capacity of this project is being increased by another 500 KW. A 2 MW wind farm project has recently been taken up for installation at Ramagiri in Ananthapur district. In addition, 377 shallow well and 10 deep well water pumping windmills were installed in the State.

World Bank warns NTPC to improve collection of its dues

175. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank had warned that it would not consider any request from the NTPC for new financing and in fact on going loan arrangements might face 'repercussions', unless the NTPC improves its record of dues collection from its customers, as per the newsitem entitled "Improve recovery or face repercussions, World Bank warns NTPC" which appeared in the *Times of india*, dated the 26th December, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the NTPC's bill collection, which averaged 77 per cent from June 1990 to June 1991 has deteriorated despite continuing efforts by the NTPC;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. the World Bank Mission which visited NTPC in November, 1991, have mentioned in the Aide Memoire prepared at the end of their visit that unless situation relating to NTPC's accounts receivable is satisfactorily resolved, the Bank would not be able to consider new financing and if prolonged, it might have repercussions for on-going loans to NTPC.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Billing collection which averaged 77% from June, 1990 to June 1991 has gone to 74.2% from July, 1991 to January, 1992.

(d) The steps taken for recovery of dues include frequent visits to State Electricity Boards and State Governments by Senior Executives of the NTPC, organising meetings, recovery through Central Appropriation etc.

Functioning of SEBs on commercial lines

176. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the State Electricity Boards to function on commercial lines and charge the tariff for the supply of electricity to the consumers based on cost of power generation;

(b) whether Government have received any report that the State Governments have implemented the advice given by the Central Government on power tariffs in various States; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not implementing these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The State Governments have been urged, from time to time, to take various steps including revision of tariff for all sectors of consumers and manage the operations of the Electricity Boards in such a manner as would yield the statutory minimum surplus of 3%. Most of the State Electricity Boards have revised their tariffs during the last one year and are taking other steps necessary in this regard.